

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

February 2019

WELCOME BACK TO GARDENING:

What a spring & winter so far! First an extremely mild Dec & Jan. Then a record breaking cold in Feb (dang that ground-hog!). We went from being antsy to get our hands in the ground to not wanting to poke our noses outdoors. If your enthusiasm has waned, check out the Mark Your Calendar listings. Enjoy!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Lorna

We have had a relatively mild winter, until now. What does a mild winter mean for our gardens in the following year? Researching on the internet, I found a few answers—mind you, a couple are a bit conflicting. Horticultural specialists advise a mild winter can mean more diseases and insects in the garden the next season. 80% of our plant diseases are caused by fungi. A mild winter allows fungal spores to thrive in leaf litter, just waiting to strike. Raking and removal of the leaf litter will have an enormous impact on cutting down on diseases in spring. Mild weather also has an impact on insects that might otherwise die off in a colder winter. To help fight this pest increase, it is suggested to add beneficial insects like lady bugs and nematodes to your regular gardening routine. Yet by raking leaf litter (aka the leaves you have left there for mulch) you are doing away with a natural habitat for ladybug adults and their larvae. No matter what kind of winter, we gardeners know that diseases and insects will develop right along with our plants. It is best to be on the lookout early and often for problems. The best preventative strategy may be to add more plants, specifically native plants, to your garden.

SPRING BRING TO SHARE IN MARCH!?!

Because our big 85th party is in April, Bring-to-Share will be one month earlier. Great timing if you have March gardening questions which would be old news by April.

For the uninitiated, the Bring to Share happens twice a year, in spring and fall. Bring in something of interest to other members. When you arrive at the meeting with your exhibit(s), check in at the central table. Register for the participation prizes (three prizes of \$5) and pick up a slip to fill out. At the top are places for your name and a description of your exhibit; the remainder is for feedback from people viewing the exhibits. Please leave feedback!

The Categories:

Garden Glory: something you are proud of from your garden—beautiful or unusual

Photos: usually they are garden related

Great Tips: do you know of a handy technique or tool?

Garden Design: info or questions

Plant identification: bring in the plant, or leaf, or a photo

Insects: please keep specimens contained

Weeds & Disease: please keep infected materials enclosed in plastic

Other: anything else

OUR SPEAKERS:

February: Amanda Jarrett: Amanda is an extremely qualified horticulturist and educator. Clients of her business, Amanda's Garden Consulting Company, range from novice gardeners to professional landscapers. Check out her website: www.TheGardenRoom.com. ...but make sure you leave a little time to explore it. Very interesting and informative. This evening she will be talking about the basics of pruning: the logic behind pruning, the timing of pruning and how to prune including tips and tricks of the trade.

March: Annie Johannessen: Annie, an organic farmer and gardener, works as the farm coordinator at West Coast Seeds. She is a graduate of the Horticulture Training Program at the UBC Botanical Garden. Her passion is ecological health through sustainable farming and gardening practices. Her talk will be on starting plants from seed, growing plants and harvesting food year round.

Tonight's Meeting

Tues, Feb 12, 2019

Speaker: Amanda Jarrett on "Pruning"

Membership renewals: only \$15

2019 NWHS budget vote

Mark Your Calendar

Northwest Flower and Garden Festival

Wed Feb 20 to Sun, Feb 24

Washington State Convention Centre, Seattle, www.gardenshow.com

Buy early-bird tickets on-line.

Bert Garbuio (daytime phone 604-299-6876) is organizing a bus trip for Wed, Feb 20. \$120 includes transit to and from the show, admission and a buffet dinner on the way home. Bus leaves from St. Helens Church, 3860 Triumph St, Burnaby at 8am sharp.

BC Home & Garden Show

Wed, Feb 20 to Sun, Feb 24

BC Place Stadium

For discount, buy tickets on-line

www.bchomeandgardenshow.com

West Coast Farm and Garden Show

Fri, Feb 22 to Sun, Feb 24

Various locations in Tofino

For more information go to www.tourismtofino.com/event/west-coast-farm-garden-show

(Audrey has a program if you are interested)

VanDusen Seedy Saturday

Sat, Feb 23, 10-4

VanDusen Floral Hall

Admission by donation

www.mgabc.org/node/2207

Hellebore Hurrah

Starts Fri, Mar 1

10am-5pm

Phoenix Perennials,

3380 No 6 Rd, Richmond

www.phoenixperennials.com

Ladner Seedy Saturday and Garden Expo

Sat, Mar 2, 10-3

All Saints Anglican Church

4755 Arthur Drive, Ladner

Admission by donation

www.ladnercommunitygarden.blogspot.ca

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New Westminster Horticultural Society February 2019

Mark Your Calendar

LEPS Pollinator Friendly Garden Seminar

Sat, Mar 9, 1:30-4:00
Township of Langley Civic Facility
20338 – 65 Ave, Langley
Free but pre-registration required
Go to www.eventbrite.ca "Pollinator Friendly Gardens Seminar" for more details and to register.
Keynote speaker: Lori Weidenhammer, author of "Victory Garden for Bees: A DIY Guide for Saving the Bees"

NWHS March General Meeting

Tues, Mar 12, 7:30pm
Speaker: Annie Johannessen on "Vegetable Gardening 12 Months a Year"
Spring Bring to Share
Register for BC Council Meeting

Plant a Row, Grow a Row Spring Gardeners' Party

Thurs, Mar 14, 6:00 sharp
St Thomas More Collegiate
7450 12th Ave, Burnaby
(details next month)

BC Council of Garden Clubs' Spring Meeting & AGM

Sat, Apr 6, 8:30-4pm
Theme: Gardening in the New Millennium.
www.bcgardenclubs.com
Pre-registration with NWHS member discount at March club meeting

NWHS April General Meeting

Tues, April 10, 7:30pm
Our 85TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!!!
(Exciting details coming)

NWHS Spring Plant Sale

Sat, May 4, 10-3
New location: New West Senior Secondary School round-about
8th St at Dublin St, New West
(see article)

YOUR 2019 EXECUTIVE:

At our November AGM, the membership cheered as the executive was voted by acclamation. The group that will be steering the club through the next year are:

President: Lorna Cloutier
Vice-President: Diane Perry
Treasurer: Ellen Berg
Secretary: Heather Corbett
Members at Large:

Anna Camporese
Terri Clark-Kveton
Trudy Findlay
Terry Koziel
Lea McDonald
Monica Mowat

These members represent just some that know you get much more out of a club when you volunteer. Besides being names on a list of executive, each has other club responsibilities. When appropriate for the timing of club events, their contact info is listed in the "Contacts" within the newsletter.

AN INVITATION FOR YOU:

If you would like to get more involved in the club but at a more minor level than being on executive, both the Refreshment (responsible for the refreshments at the meetings) and Fund-Raising (responsible for the In-Club and Spring Plant Sales) Committees could use more manpower. Being on either committee is not a huge time commitment but you will get to make some new friends in the club while helping to make our club the great club it is. Why not join one or both groups? Talk with Diane Perry if interested in helping with the evening tea or with Janet Butts or Annemarie Mobach if interesting in helping making money. You won't regret it.

FLORISSA:

The Spring 2019 Fundraising Program has begun. Some old favorites, some potentially new favorites. Our club's fundraising web-page should be up. Check out www.florissafundraising.com/new-westminster-horticultural-society/ If you are uncomfortable with ordering on-line, Audrey is willing to place your order for you. Tax is added to the prices. The program runs until our April 10th meeting night. Audrey will be receiving the order shortly after that. Remember last fall, some delectable offerings were sold-out before our deadline. Thank you for purchasing plants through this program. NWHS retains 50% of the price you pay for the plant material.

CONTACTS:

Lorna Cloutier: President
604-524-1942 or
lorna@newwesthortsociety.org

Diane Perry: Vice-President,
Refreshments, 85th Anniversary Party
diane@newwesthortsociety.org

Ellen Berg: Treasurer, membership renewals
604-525-7827 or
ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Anna Camporese: Speakers
anna@newwesthortsociety.org

Lea McDonald: Bulletin Boards
604-942-9416

Trudy Findlay: Outings, workshops
604-522-2665 or
trudy@newwesthortsociety.org

Terri Clark-Kveton: Plant sale soil, seeding demo/workshop
604-525-1954 or
terri@newwesthortsociety.org

Terry Koziel: Website liaison
778-789-3441 or
terry@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes: Plant Sale pots and labels, Florissa, Bring to Share, Contests
604-526-8284 (before 8pm) or
audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Janet Butts: Fundraising,
604-435-3008 or
janet@newwesthortsociety.org

Annemarie Mobach: Fundraising
604-524-5780 or
annemarie@newwesthortsociety.org

Sharon Seki: Overall plant sale lead
604-525-1611 or
sharon@newwesthortsociety.org

HELEN KRAYACHIE: 1935-2018

We were stunned by the passing of Helen on Dec 12th, and stunned to hear that she was 83 years old. She seemed 10 years younger! Following the footsteps of her sister, Mary Davidson, Helen joined the club in 2004 and readily came forward whenever calls for membership participation were made. An enthusiastic, cheerful person. Our condolences go out to Mary. Helen was a gem.



New Westminster Horticultural Society February 2019

NWHS SPRING PLANT SALE:

When: Sat, May 4, 10am-3pm

Where: New Westminster Secondary School breezeway (aka roundabout) 8th St at Dublin St, New West

Block out May 4 on your calendar—you will be busy that day. You won't want to miss the opportunity to "work" with your fellow club members in putting on the club's (i.e. your) Spring Plant Sale. We hope and expect all club members will take advantage of this opportunity. This is a premier time for you to get to know other members while focusing on one thing we all love—plants. While you're at your calendar, block out the evening of May 3 as well. Why not help get those plants organized for the sale day? There is nothing like working toward a common goal to forge new friendships.

New Location:

Our sale has a new location this year. Not that our old location wasn't a good one. We thank Monica and John and their neighbours for putting up with us. We won't wake you up early this year! Our new location has too many positive features to not warrant the move. We will be at the New Westminster Senior Secondary School under the breezeway where the two sections of buildings join. You may be familiar with the spot—at the round-about where Dublin St meets with 8th St. We are not looking for our sale to grow bigger—just to make it better. The new site will make it more pleasant to put on the sale—huge undercover space for sorting and display and better organizational flow, secure storage of the plants overnight, loads of parking for our customers.

Plant Sale Prep Starts Now:

Think now about what you want to contribute from your garden. When you are out doing your post-thaw spring garden clean-up, evaluate your plants. Need division? Divide and pot up those extra chunks. Identify a healthy delectable seedling? Our sale could use it. Remember we are not trying to make our sale bigger, just better. Our prime plants (that we can make the most money from) will be those that are unique and healthy. Remember, too, that we will need to know what your plant is. The more details that can be put on the plant tag, the better. Got a photo? Super. A detailed botanical name? The plant's price just went up!

Starting Plants From Seed:

Last year we had an increased number of members who started plants from seed. It was great! We had a fantastic vegetable section. It was very popular with our customers. Timing seed starting so that your plants are prime size at sale time can be tricky. A good reference is the West Coast Gardens catalogue.

Never started seeds before but want to give it a try? Terri Clark-Kveton has offered to give another demo/workshop on seed starting if enough interest is shown. It will probably be at the end of February or in early March. If interested, add your name to the sign-up sheet at the In-Club Sale Table tonight or contact her asap.

Need soil for your seedlings? Terri has a supply of seed starting mix and potting-on soil. Do not use soil from your garden as it will not provide prime drainage and may contain pathogens. Terri's stash of soil is intended for potting-on into pots up to 4".

Pots:

Got extra? Need some? Audrey has offered her carport (lane behind 117 Seventh Ave) as pot-depot up to the sale date. Feel free to drop off any unwanted pots at any time. There is no need to wash them. If you need pots, it is best to connect with Audrey so you do not inadvertently take some of her personal stash that is also in the carport. She has loads of 2x2 basket stuffer size and some trays. Terri also has some pots.

Plant Tags:

Audrey will have the club stash of blank plant tags. They will be secure inside her house. Just call or email her if you need some. If you anticipate you will need a huge number of a certain size (which may be the case if you get addicted to growing from seed) tell her asap. She will create your order on demand, thus eliminating the problem of running out of that size. We use fine-tip Sharpie pens to write on the tags. Audrey has a small stash if you need to borrow one. Please put all the info on the outside curved side of the tag. As you know, we use 1" vinyl Venetian blinds for our tags. Such blinds are getting rarer. If you come across any, please drop them off in Audrey's carport. It is best if you do not dismantle or wash the blinds. Audrey will take care of that.

Publicity:

We really want to get the word out, especially with the location change. Our small "for your fridge" posters are available tonight. Take as many as you like for your friends and co-workers. Our larger, letter-size posters won't be available until the April meeting. Their distribution is always a challenge. Starting tonight, we are taking the names of people who have a spot (or more) they are willing to guarantee posting one. Tonight and at the March meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet on which you can put your name, your contact info and the location(s) you will cover. In April we will distribute the large posters---and know which areas that are not covered. Thanks for helping this way.

That's it for now... ..let's get potting!

Sale Contact People:

Sharon Seki: Overall plant sale lead
604-525-1611 or
sharon@newwesthortsociety.org

Terri Clark-Kveton: Seeding demo/
workshop, soil

604-525-1954 or
terri@newwesthortsociety.org
1118 Eighth Ave, NW

Audrey Barnes: pots, labels, Sharpies
604-526-8284 (before 8pm) or
audrey@newwesthortsociety.org
117 Seventh Ave, NW

PHOTO AND CONTAINER CONTESTS:

The 2019 Contest Rules Handout is available tonight. Pick up your copy in the foyer or at the fireplace table. It has all the detailed fine-print regarding the contests. If you have entered before, it will look familiar to you. A few tweaks of dates have been done here and there. The major rewrite is for Colour in the Garden. For this category, the subject matter for your image now *must be vegetative*.

The 2019 Photo Categories are:

Colour in the Garden: Bluish-green. This ranges from bluish-glaucous to intense turquoise/teal. The image must be of bluish-green plant material. Photo can be taken in any garden.

Visitors in the Garden: Must be your own garden.

View of a NWHS Garden: Over-all or partial view of any NWHS member's garden.

Macro Image: Must be a macro photograph. Can be any subject matter in any garden.